## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please write the claims to read as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-35 without prejudice.

1   1-35. (Cancelled)

1   36. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

2   detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a first physical port of a first server,

3   wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

4   activating a secondary virtual port on a second physical port of the first server, the

5   second physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the second

6   physical port;

7   configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary

8   virtual port; and

9   servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the

10  secondary virtual port on the first server.

1   37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting the failure is in

2   response to initiating a failover procedure during a scheduled maintenance on the first

3   server.

1   38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting a failure in the first

2   server further comprises:  detecting a lack of a heartbeat signal from the first server at a

3   second server.

1   39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   determining that the primary virtual port has been recovered;

3          terminating service requests to the secondary virtual port;

4          deactivating the secondary virtual port; and

5          servicing the storage devices owned by the first server through the primary virtual

6    port.


1    40. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including program instructions

2    when executed operable to:

3          detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a first physical port of a first server,

4    wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

5          activating a secondary virtual port on a second physical port of the first server, the

6    second physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the second

7    physical port;

8          configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary

9    virtual port; and

10         servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the

11    secondary virtual port on the first server.